

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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P. Sec 1.5(d)Your Meeting with Costa Rican Public Security Minister
Benjamin PizaSETTING

Benjamin Piza is a key player in President Luis Monge's administration. He has been Minister of Public Security since September 1984. He reorganized his Ministry in March 1985 to increase efficiency and requested monetary authorization for additional civil guard personnel. Piza supports U.S. assistance programs to upgrade the Costa Rican security forces. He has approached other Western countries for security assistance. Piza shares our concerns regarding Nicaragua.

I. MEETING OBJECTIVES

- o To emphasize U.S. security commitment to Costa Rica and support for Costa Rican democracy.

II. SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY

- o Costa Rica is Central America's model democracy; uninterrupted free elections since 1948.
- o February 86 elections, along with November elections in Honduras and Guatemala, symbolize what we stand for in region.
- o POINTS TO MAKE
 - U.S. policy in region is predicated on fostering the democratic process. We want to avoid becoming an issue in your domestic politics.
 - We look forward to continued close relations with Costa Rica whoever wins elections.

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III. SUPPORT FOR COSTA RICAN SECURITY

- o We have provided measured program of security assistance and reiterated our Rio Treaty commitments. Costa Ricans seek frequent reassurance.
- o Security assistance controversial; portrayed by Cubans and Sandinistas as militarizing unarmed Costa Rica.
- o Central American counterterrorism proposal provides \$1.5 million for Costa Rican law enforcement.
- o POINTS TO MAKE
 - We are prepared to defend Costa Rican democracy; we take our Rio Treaty commitments seriously.
 - Our support of Nicaraguan resistance is intended to resolve the Sandinista threat in the mid-term.
 - The USG will continue to respond appropriately to requests for security aid.
 - The counterterrorism program now proposed to the U.S. Congress includes \$1.5 million for Costa Rica. We anticipate that the proposal will be adopted, although exact funding levels are uncertain.

IV. NICARAGUA

- o Costa Rica's support for our regional policy has resulted in vicious Cuban and Sandinista propaganda.

- o The OAS this summer refused to condemn Nicaragua for a May 31 border incursion which killed two Costa Rican

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Civil Guardsmen. This inability to mobilize Latin support when threatened has shaken the Monge government and prompted it to reassess its foreign policy.

o POINTS TO MAKE

- Sandinista goals in Nicaragua and in Central American region becoming increasingly clear, not only to those whose interests are directly involved, but to those previously sympathetic to the Sandinista regime.
- We appreciate Costa Rica's continuing cooperation [] Both political and military pressure against the Sandinistas are vital to long-term regional stability.
- We share your concern for the failure of the OAS to condemn vigorously Sandinista border incursions, including the May 31 attack against the Civil Guardsmen.
- * -- I trust that U.S. security assistance and training have made a substantial contribution to your ability to respond effectively to protect your borders *AND DEAL WITH NICAGUAN. BACK EFFORTS TO DELEGALIZE YOUR GOVERNMENT.*
- You may rest assured that the U.S. will continue to offer its full support to your country in its efforts to maintain a firm position in opposition to Sandinista goals, and to meet the needs of your own people.

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